1   Dr. Kent raised the question of who, in our Governmental structure, was authorized to make a Commander's estimate for the President. After some discussion, we concluded that no existing agency had been assigned this function and that it would probably require cooperation between the Joint Chiefs of Staff who, under the Act of 1947, are "military advisers to the President" and the DCI, who is in effect G-2 for the National Security Council. The difficulty is that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have no staff component capable of making such an estimate and, it should be noted, the number of officers on the Joint Staff is limited by statute to 200. Dr. Kent indicated that Gen. Partridge had expressed the view that a staff of approximately 100 officers would be required in order adequately to implement a suggestion of this nature. Dr. Kent and I resolved to take the question under continuing study. 26 August, 10

2   I also spoke to Gen. Samford about the lack in our Governmental system of a mechanism for preparing a Commander's estimate for the President. Although the JCS might take a leading role in such a task, they were limited by law to a staff of 200 which was at present fully occupied with other duties. Moreover, the Director of Central Intelligence and the National Intelligence set-up should be brought into such a procedure. I was going to study the situation and might propose a directive, or even possibly supplementing legislation, and would very much desire any thoughts which Gen. Samford had on this subject. He agreed with the lack and also agreed with my feeling that there is at present too high a wall between Operations and Intelligence, a block which has to some extent been cut down in the Air Force. Gen. Samford undertook to take this matter under consideration. 28 August, 5

3   At the NSC Senior Staff meeting on Tuesday, Admiral Wooldridge indicated that he had discussed with General Cabell the desirability of some setup to obtain a Commander's estimate for the President. I made an appointment with General Cabell to discuss this informally on Thursday, at 2 P.M. 24 September, 9

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DOC. NO.		
DOC. DATE **10 Oct 52**		
COPY NO. **1 & ②**		
NUMBER OF PAGES **22t**		
NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS		
Tabs A,B,C,D,E,F		

25X1

**Review of DD/I Projects
1 January - 1 October 1952**

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